




LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

MAY 7, 2013
JUDGE MARY THORNTON HOUSE

STATE OF THE COURT



OBJECTIVES TODAY....

- Explain Our Current Budget Status
 - Provide Details and the “Whys” of the Court’s Reduction Plan
 - Take Questions
- 

OUR “FISCAL CLIFF”

- \$56M - \$85M
- Requires Reductions in **All** Court Operations
- Uncertainty Created by Factors Beyond Our Control



WE ARE NOT ALONE....

fresnobee.com
Fresno Bee

Fresno County court closures cause concern in rural cities

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013 • PAGE 5

San Mateo County courts plan layoffs of commissioners, staff

Budget cuts forcing court closures in San Bernardino County
December 11, 2012 | 1:21 pm

Some fear Riverside case backlog could return

SAN DIEGO

North County mayors speak out against court closures

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

- 1997: State Court Trial Funding Act
- 2000: Unification
- 2003: First Round of Budget Cuts
- 2007-2011: Continuing Budget Cuts
- 2012: Triggers, Proposition 30, and \$544 Million Dollar Cut

THEN, NOW, AND INTO THE FUTURE

2000-2003

- 58 Courthouses
- 5400 Employees

2009-2012

- 46 Courthouses
- 4600 Employees


2013-2014

- 36 Courthouses
- 4200 Employees

HOW LASC HAS RESPONDED

- **Budget** Working Group
- Responsible for July 1, 2012 \$30 Million Downsizing
- **Development of Current Reduction Plan**
- **Implementation** Working Groups
- Action Plans Devised for Civil, Traffic, Juvenile, & Probate

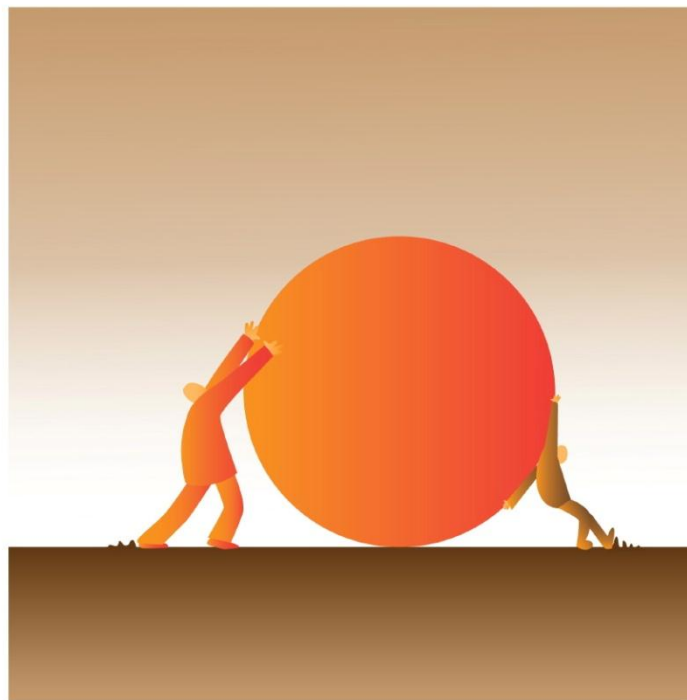
PRINCIPLES/PRIORITIES

- Meet Constitutional Requirements and Statutory Obligations
 - Maintain Access To Justice In All Litigation Types
 - Most Effective Use Of Bench Officers
 - Fair and Even Distribution Of Resources Within Case Types
 - Investment In Technology
- 

ALL COURT CASE TYPES INVOLVED

- Not One Type Will Escape **Some** Impact
- Litigants in **Every** Discipline will Feel the Changes
- With the Exception of Criminal Statutory Requirements and Civil Statutory Mandates, Justice Will Slow Down

LA'S REDUCTION PLAN



COMPONENTS: HUBS AND CLOSURES

The Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court
LA's First "Hub"



COURTHOUSE CLOSURES


Ten Courthouses Will Be Closed or *Limited in Use:

- Huntington Park; Whittier
- *Pomona North; Malibu
- West Los Angeles; *Beverly Hills
- San Pedro; Beacon Street
- *Catalina; Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center

CRIMINAL COURTS & TRAFFIC

- Close 12 Courtrooms and Distribute Cases Among Remaining Criminal Courtrooms
- Re-configure CAC to Accommodate New Demands From Parole Violation Hearings
- Consolidate Traffic Into Fewer Locations With Higher Workloads And More Delay


JUVENILE

- **Kenyon Courthouse Closed/Work Re-distributed**
 - **Terminate Referees**
 - **Replace With Other Bench Officers**
 - **Close Dedicated Adoptions Court While Keeping Those Cases In The Edelman Children's Court**
 - **One-half reduction in Juvenile Mediation Program**
- 

FAMILY LAW

- **10,000 Civil Harassment Hearings Annually Added To Family Law Caseload**
- **Conservatively = Increases Existing Bench Officer Workloads By More Than 15 Percent.**

CIVIL: THE BIG PICTURE

- **No Hybrid Courts: Elimination of a “Neighborhood Court” Model**
 - **Utilize Differential Case Management For Certain Case Types**
 - **Reduce Number Of Courtrooms**
 - **Use of Master Calendar Departments (MCD)**
 - **“Hub” Certain Case Types**
- 

SMALL CLAIMS: FROM 27 TO 6

- **Hub Small Claims In Five Courthouses**
- Small Claims Cases Will Be Filed And Heard **Only** At These Locations.
 - Mosk, Alhambra, Downey, Van Nuys, Inglewood
- Filings Last Year = 61,603

SMALL CLAIMS



LIMITED CIVIL: \$ AND INJURY

- \$\$\$\$

Two Collection Courts @ Norwalk & Chatsworth

- All collections cases filed at those two courthouses
- Filings Last Year = 83,059
- 90% Require No Court Appearance

REMAINING LIMITED..... TO MOSK MASTER CALENDAR

- All \$25,000 and under **Filed** at the Mosk Courthouse
- Master Calendar Department
- Filings Last Year = 20,765
- **Trials To Stand-Alone Trial Courts Throughout the County**

GENERAL JURISDICTION: \$25,000+

- Individual Calendar Courts (I/C) Retained
- PI Cases Transferred To Mosk Master Calendars
- All PI Cases Filed At Mosk Courthouse
 - Master Calendar – With Limited Exceptions
 - Filings Last Year = 18,622
- Stand Alone Trial Courts

ADR/SETTLEMENT COURTS

- Court Managed Civil ADR Program:
Discontinued
- Maintain Civil Settlement Courts

UNLAWFUL DETAINERS: 5 HUBS

- Mosk, Pasadena, Long Beach & Santa Monica + Lancaster
- UD Cases Will Be Filed And Heard Only At These Locations
- UD Trials To Stand-alone Trial Court Filings
Last Year = 67,182

UNLAWFUL DETAINER HUB LOCATIONS



Santa
Monica



Long
Beach



Pasadena



Stanley
Mosk



THE TIMELINE.....

- **February 2013: Notices to Attorneys**
- **March 18, 2013: New “File by” Dates in the Hubs**
- **June 15, 2013: Lay-offs**
- **July 1, 2013: Full Implementation of the Reduction Plan With Courthouse Closures**

QUESTIONS?

